

Press Release

**Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner
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Former Securities Professional Sentenced for Securities Fraud in Overseas Trading Scam

(Topeka, Kansas) -- Kansas Securities Commissioner, Chris Biggs, announced today that Melvin Dean Bryant, Jr., was sentenced Tuesday in Johnson County District Court to 24 months prison for securities fraud. Bryant, 51, was convicted in August of one count of felony securities fraud by a jury.

The conviction resulted from Bryant soliciting an investor to provide him with \$50,000 to invest in a six month overseas trading program called the Capital Enhancement Program. Bryant promised a 40% per month return for a total profit of \$133,087. Instead of profit, the investor never received any return or her original money back. Investigation by the Securities Commissioner revealed that the trading program was fictitious and the money was placed in Bryant's bank account and wired to Australia.

Bryant, Overland Park, was ordered by Judge Steve A. Leben to pay \$50,000 in restitution and sentenced to 24 months in prison. The jury previously determined that Bryant, a former licensed securities and insurance professional, owed a fiduciary duty to the investor to care for her money. This aggravating factor allowed the court to depart from the presumptive sentence and order additional prison time.

This investigation and prosecution of Bryant was done with the assistance and cooperation of District Attorney Paul Morrison and the Office of the Johnson County District Attorney.

The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner is charged with administration and enforcement of the Kansas Securities Act under Chapter 17 of the Kansas Statutes. The Office investigates and prosecutes securities fraud, the offer or sale of unregistered securities and the offer or sale of securities by unlicensed stockbrokers or investment advisers. For more information and investor education resources, visit <http://www.securities.state.ks.us>.